

THE
KINGS MAJESTIES
Gracious Letter
TO HIS
PARLIAMENT
OF
SCOTLAND

Convened at *Edinburgh*, the 28th day of *July*, 1681.

CHARLES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

OUR Inclination to embrace all opportunities to express Our constant care of, and Affection to, Our Ancient Kingdom, hath moved Us to call you together at this time, to Advise with Us, what may truly conduce to the Security and Interest thereof: And as We have ever judged Our own, and the Interests of Our Subjects, to be inseparable, and such as would divide them, to be in their hearts Enemies to both, (Experience having sufficiently evinced, that all Invasions upon, or Diminutions of the Rights and Privileges of Our Crown, prove Fatal and Destructive to the Security and Property of Our People, which can only thereby be Protected,) so are they then best managed and secured, when provided for by unanimous Councils, and Joynt Resolutions. And, as it is one of Our greatest satisfactions, that We have been always careful of that Our Antient Kingdom, with a tenderness suitable to Our great Interest in it: So when We remember the firm and dutiful constancy which it hath always paid to the Royal Line and Family; And that now it is your Interest, as well as Duty, to adhere unto it with unshaken Loyalty as much as ever; We cannot doubt of your ready and zealous compliance at this time, with what shall be proposed as fit for Our Service, which can never be divided from the happiness of Our People.

And since some corrupted with the Rebelious Principles of the last Age, or the blind Zeal of this have at first raised Schisms and Separation in the Church, and afterwards frequent Rebellions against Us; We cannot but expect from your prudent Consultations, effectual and adequate Remedies, for curing these violent Distempers at present, and preventing them for the future: And that you will not despise or connive at the smallest appearances of these wicked and seditious Principles, which (how plausibly soever they may be disguised, under the old Pretences, and fallacious Masks of Liberty and Religion, which are ever least minded by the most clamorous Pretenders to them) yet in the Issue lead to such monstrous Effects, and Rebelious Extravagancies, as necessarily tend to the Dissolution of all Government and Order: And of which you cannot chuse but be deeply sensible.

This being once effectually done, We may reasonably hope, that Our Government in Church and State, as by Law presently established, shall receive its due Reverence and Obedience; And that all our good Subjects shall be preserved in Peace, Tranquillity, and Happiness. For promoting these great Ends so necessary to the securing the Protestant Religion, Our Authority and Government, and the common Interest of Our People, by your Joynt Advice, who are so much concerned; And for enacting of such Laws, as experience hath discovered to be wanting for distribution of Justice in several Cases, which have emerged since Our last Parliament, We have called this: And as an eminent Expression of Our Favour to you, have named Our most Dear, and most entirely Beloved Brother, *James Duke of Albany and York, &c.* to be Our Commissioner therein, whom We have found so affectionate to you, and to whom you have testified so much Duty during His long stay amongst you; which have enabled Him so well to understand the Affairs and Interest of that Our Antient Kingdom. And since His Interest is so inseparable from Ours, We shall not doubt of your ready and cheerful Concurrence, to render His Endeavors amongst you successful for securing Our Government, and your own Peace and Happiness. By doing whereof, you will answer the entire confidence We have in your Prudence and Loyalty, And so We bid you heartily Farewel.

Given at Our Court at Windsor-Castle, the 12th day of July 1681. and of Our

Reign the 33d year.

HIS
ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE
Duke of ALBANY, &c.
His MAJESTIES
High Commissioner,
HIS
SPEECH
TO THE
PARLIAMENT,
After the reading of His Majesties LETTER.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS I have had the honour to serve His Majesty in other Capacities, so I esteem it an Honour and Happiness, that He hath been pleased to make choice of me to serve Him, as his Commissioner, in this His ancient Kingdom; since it shews to all the World, the Goodness he hath for me, as well as the Trust and Confidence He hath in me; and puts me not only in a Capacity of serving him as becomes a dutiful and loyal Subject, but also gives me the opportunity of letting you all see, the real Concern I have for the good of this Country, and my readiness to serve it, and promote its true Interests.

I do not doubt but that this will be a happy Meeting, and end to the satisfaction of His Majesty and all his loyal Subjects; which I say with the greater confidence, having now been so long amongst you, and found so great a readiness in all of you, for the advancing of His Majesties Service.

You have heard in His Majesties gracious Letter, the Reasons of his calling you together at this time, and what he doth, and may expect from this his ancient Kingdom; of whose Loyalty and Affection to his Service, he doth in no manner doubt.

He hath commanded me to assure you, that he will inviolably maintain and protect the Protestant Religion, as now established by Law in this His Kingdom; and that he will upon the same account protect and maintain the Government of the Church by Archbishops and Bishops, and will take their Persons and all other their Concerns, into his Royal Care and Protection: and doth seriously recommend to you to fall upon effectual Courses, for suppressing those seditious and rebellious Conventicles, from whence proceed all disorder and confusion, and these horrid and extravagant Doctrines, which are a scandal to Christianity, and tend to the subversion of all publick and private Interests.

I am also to declare to you in His Majesties name, That it is, and was always his intention, that Law should have its due Course, for the security of his Subjects Properties and Rights; and that he will always discountenance all courses contrary to, and inconsistent with, the Laws of this Kingdom; none being so much concerned for their due observance as himself.

And now he doth expect, you will not be short of the Loyalty of your Ancestors, in vigorously asserting and clearing his Royal Prerogative, and in declaring the Rights of his Crown in its natural and legal course of Descent, that you will take care to settle and provide such seasonable and necessary Supplies, as the Support and Interest of his Government call for and require.

And now I hope, that as the Council have already begun to do their parts, to promote the Trade of this Kingdom, that you will also do yours, that it may flourish.

My Lords and Gentlemen, As the inclination I had to serve and promote the Interest of this Kingdom, hath been the chief Inducement to His Majesty to give me this opportunity to convince you of it; So you may be sure, I shall do what becomes me to satisfy you of the truth of it; and I hope you will have that consideration and kindness for me, as to enable me to perform His Service.

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